

Army Submits Final Rules For Everglades Restoration to OMB for Administration Review

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Today, the Acting Secretary of the Army submitted the final programmatic regulations for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for final Administration review. The programmatic regulations establish the framework for the detailed planning and implementation of the \$8 billion Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), which will be jointly funded by the Federal government and the State of Florida. The regulations also assist in defining the relationships and responsibilities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as federal, state, local and tribal partners in the restoration effort.

The final regulations have been significantly changed to address concerns raised during the public review process on the proposed rule that was published in the Federal Register on August 2, 2002. The final regulations reflect many ideas and comments from agencies, tribes, and a large number of individuals and organizations representing environmental, agricultural, utility, and economic interests. Review of the programmatic regulations by the Office of Management and Budget is required for regulations that are considered a significant regulatory action before they are published in final form. The final regulations also require concurrence of the State of Florida and the Department of the Interior, both of whom have been closely involved in the development of the regulations to ensure that they meet their needs. After OMB review and concurrence, the final regulations will be published in the Federal Register.

For more information on the programmatic regulations, see our website at http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/progr_regs.cfm. OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs can be contacted by fax at (202) 395-3047. For more information on the OMB regulatory review process, see their web page at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/infoereg/regpol.html>.